

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**SELECTIVE CONTROL OF LIGNIN BIOSYNTHESIS IN
TRANSGENIC PLANTS**

The present invention provides methods of
5 selectively controlling lignin biosynthesis in plants
such that lignification is reduced or enhanced, as
desired. The invention provides, for example, a method
of reducing lignification in a vascular plant by
ectopically expressing a nucleic acid molecule encoding
10 an AGL8-like gene product in the plant, whereby
lignification is reduced due to ectopic expression of the
nucleic acid molecule. An AGL8-like gene product useful
in the invention can have, for example, substantially the
amino acid sequence of an AGL8 ortholog such as
15 *Arabidopsis* AGL8 (SEQ ID NO:2).